Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A method of preventing, treating, or ameliorating pain which comprises administering spongosine to a subject in need of such prevention, treatment, or amelioration.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the pain is hyperalgesia.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the hyperalgesia is neuropathic pain.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 13~~, wherein the pain is caused by or associated with a disease that causes damage to sensory neurons ~~neurones~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 14~~ for the prevention, treatment, or amelioration of bowel pain, pancreatic pain, pelvic/perineal pain, back pain, lower back pain, chest pain, cardiac pain, pelvicpain/PID, joint pain ~~(for example, associated with tendonitis, bursitis, acute arthritis)~~, neck pain, obstetric pain ~~(labour or Caesarean Section)~~, cancer pain, HIV pain, phantom limb pain, post-operative pain, chronic neuropathic pain, failed back surgery pain, post physical trauma pain ~~(including pain caused by a gunshot wound, a road traffic accident, or a burn)~~, scar tissue pain, acute herpes Zoster pain,

acute pancreatitis breakthrough pain ~~(cancer)~~, post-herpes neuralgia, or trigeminal neuralgia, or for the prevention, treatment, or amelioration of neuropathic or other pain caused by, or associated with diabetic neuropathy, polyneuropathy, fibromyalgia, myofascial pain syndrome, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, sciatica or lumbar radiculopathy, spinal stenosis, temporomandibular joint disorder, renal colic, or dysmenorrhoea/endometriosis.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the hyperalgesia is inflammatory pain.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11~~,12, or 16~~, wherein the pain is caused by or associated with an inflammatory or immune disease.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11~~,12, 16, or 17~~ for the prevention, treatment, or amelioration of bowel pain, back pain, cancer pain, fibromyalgia, post-operative pain, or for the prevention, treatment, or amelioration of inflammatory or other pain caused by, or associated with arthritic conditions, ~~such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, gouty arthritis, or~~ asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, fibrosis, multiple sclerosis, sepsis, septic shock, endotoxic shock, gram negative shock, toxic shock, hemorrhagic shock, adult respiratory distress syndrome, cerebral malaria, organ transplant rejection, pain secondary to cancer, HIV, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, silicosis, pulmonary sarcosis, bone resorption diseases, reperfusion injury, graft v. host rejection, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, allograft rejections, fever and myalgia due to infection, AIDS related complex (ARC), keloid formation, scar tissue formation, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and pyresis, irritable bowel syndrome, osteoporosis, cerebral malaria, bacterial meningitis, or adverse effects from amphotericin B treatment, interleukin-2 treatment, OKT3 treatment, or GM-CSF treatment.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 18~~, wherein spongosine is administered at a dose that gives rise to plasma concentrations one fifth to one thousandth of the minimum plasma concentration of spongosine that gives rise to bradycardia, hypotension or tachycardia side effects in animals of the same species as the subject to which the dose is to be administered.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the dose is one fifth to one hundredth of the minimum dose ~~does~~ that gives rise to the side effects.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 18~~, wherein spongosine is administered at a dose that is one fifth to one fiftieth of the minimum dose of spongosine that gives rise to bradycardia, hypotension or tachycardia side effects in animals of the same species as the subject to which the dose is to be administered.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the dose is one fifth to one tenth of the minimum dose that gives rise to the side effects.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 18~~, wherein spongosine is administered at a dose of less than 6mg/kg.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 18, or 23~~, wherein spongosine is administered at a dose of at least 0.01mg/kg~~, preferably at least 0.05mg/kg~~.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 18, or 23~~, wherein spongosine is administered at a dose of at least 0.1mg/kg.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 25, wherein spongosine is administered at a dose of 0.1 to lmg/kg~~, or 0.2 to lmg/kg~~.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 18~~, wherein the subject is administered with spongosine and another analgesic agent.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 27, wherein the other analgesic agent is an opioid receptor agonist or partial agonist, a cyclooxygenase inhibitor, a sodium or calcium channel modulator, a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI), or an agent that treats neuropathic pain.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 28~~, wherein spongosine is administered orally, parenterally, sublingually, transdermally, intrathecally, or transmucosally.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 29~~, wherein spongosine is administered at a frequency of 2 or 3 times per day.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 11 to 30~~, wherein the subject is a human subject.